

A reader of The Commoner writes: "The Standard Oil company has advanced the price of oil one-half of a cent per gallon five different times in almost as many weeks. Is that a sample of the way combinations with improved facilities cheapen the product?" The Standard Oil company as a rule provides pretty fair samples of the way combinations operate for "the benefit of the people."

### A Fair Sample.

The Atlanta Constitution thinks the old fallacy that "the foreigner pays the tax" is dead beyond resurrection. If the editor of the Constitution will crowd the average republican editor into a corner on this point he will learn of his mistake and will ascertain very readily that the protectionist is wedded to his idols and does not hesitate even at this day to reassert the absurdity that "the foreigner pays the tax."

### The Old Fallacy.

The Chicago Tribune says that the president has made "a serious effort to enforce the anti-trust law." Perhaps the Tribune will be able to explain why the president has not undertaken to enforce the criminal clause of that law. No representative of the administration, and so far as we have observed no republican newspaper, has ever explained why this, the chief provision of the Sherman anti-trust law, was not enforced.

### Please Explain It.

A brick manufacturer in Chicago has obtained judgment for the sum of \$22,000 for damages suffered by a boycott organized against him by the Chicago masons' and builders' association and contractors, and the brick manufacturers' association. A few more judgments of this kind and the representatives of the trust system may conclude that, after all, independent business men will be protected in the effort to provide competition.

### A Big Judgment.

A pretty story is being told relating to the late Jessie Benton Fremont. During the civil war Admiral Porter had command of the federal fleet on the Mississippi. He occupied as his flagship the steamer Benton, named after Mrs. Fremont's father. The admiral named the little tender attached to the flagship Jessie Benton Fremont, and he wrote to Mrs. Fremont in explanation: "You have always sailed close to your husband and your father."

### A Pretty Story.

Congressman Cannon, who will probably be the speaker of the next house, relates this interesting tale: "I wore my old slouch hat one day, and went over to the congressional library, where they have the models of this great scheme for beautifying Washington. The man in charge sized me up right the very first time as a countryman from Illinois. 'What's it all about?' I asked. He told me in detail. 'How much will it cost?' I asked again. 'The cost is estimated at a thousand million dollars.' 'Great Scott!' I said. 'Will the people stand for it?' 'Sure,' he replied, 'they've got to stand it.' This is not the only scheme which the people 'have got to stand.'

### There are Others.

The Washington Post approaches the danger line when it gives utterance to this treasonable statement: "We find the press declaring that the trusts are bursting with as bitter a hatred of the president and the republican party which supports him as ever they could feel for the powers of extremist destruction." The fact and the dimensions of the republican victory in the middle of a presidential term prove that the trusts were not out for the scalp of the g. o. p. The party's consistent record of fidelity to the interests of monopolistic combinations was accepted as a guarantee of continued friendship. Where is there the slightest indication of danger to the trusts from republican animosity?"

### The Danger Line.

Walter Wellman, the well-known newspaper correspondent, has written an interesting article for the periodical called "Success," in which Mr. Wellman shows that the United States senate, a body presumed to comprise ninety, twelve men actually dominate. Mr. Wellman does not care to undertake the task of presenting the names in the order of precedence, but he does not hesi-

### A Powerful Dozen.

tate to name as the twelve men of power in the senate the following: Nelson W. Aldrich, of Rhode Island; William B. Allison, of Iowa; Albert J. Beveridge, of Indiana; Shelby M. Cullom, of Illinois; Charles W. Fairbanks, of Indiana; James B. Foraker, of Ohio; William P. Frye, of Maine; Eugene Hale, of Maine; Marcus A. Hanna, of Ohio; Henry Cabot Lodge, of Massachusetts; Orville H. Platt, of Connecticut, and John C. Spooner, of Wisconsin.

The New York Tribune complains because "the office of collector at Charlestown, S. C., is considered too sacred to be profaned by an occupant with a black skin, just as the postoffice at Indianola is considered too sacred to be profaned by a woman with a black skin." The Tribune should reserve some of its indignation because of the fact that every important federal office in the northern states is considered "too sacred to be profaned by an occupant with a black skin."

### There are Others.

W. D. Bynum, who left the democratic party on the ground that he was "too good a democrat" to indorse bimetalism, has now declared in favor of the high tariff policy. It is somewhat significant that many of the men who refused to support the democratic ticket in 1896 and in 1900 on the ground that they disagreed with the party on the financial question have "little by little, but steadily as man's march to the grave," embraced the general policies of the republican party.

### Now He is all Over.

Many observing persons will be inclined to agree with the Chicago Chronicle when it says: "From the general tone of republican comment upon Senator Hoar's anti-trust bill it is pretty safe to predict that the Massachusetts sage will be about as successful in his war against the trusts as he was in his attack upon imperialism. The republican party esteems and venerates Mr. Hoar only so long as he keeps his hands off the various forms of favoritism which that organization fosters and protects."

### The Hoar Bill.

Some republican papers are urging the republican congress to make a revision of the tariff. But they are met with that old-time campaign slogan, "Let well enough alone." The republican editors who favor tariff revision may remember that during the campaign they urged the people to "let well enough alone," and yet somehow or other this phrase when used by the republican congressmen does not appeal to those who insist that the trusts should be deprived of the shelter which they find in the tariff.

### A Slogan's Roast.

A Porto Rican student at Cornell, Traviesco by name, has written a letter to the Chicago Record-Herald. This student draws an unhappy picture of the administration of Porto Rican affairs and among other things says: "In order that his will may be done and that his power may be absolute Governor Hunt supports the party of the minority, composed of American adventurers and native renegades, who have no regard for the welfare of the country and are ready to applaud so long as they enjoy official protection."

### In Porto Rico.

It is announced on authority of the New York World that Mr. Oxnard of the beet sugar trust has decided to allow the reciprocity treaty giving a 20 per cent reduction from the tariff rates on Cuban sugar to be ratified. At the same time Mr. Oxnard is said to have warned the president of the United States that the bill reducing the Philippine tariff from 75 to 25 per cent of the Dingley rates cannot pass. Mr. Oxnard has had his way on several occasions and it will not be in the least surprising if he has his way at this time.

### Mr. Oxnard's Power.

Generals Botha and Delarey have issued a circular in behalf of the Boers asking for assistance. In this circular it is said: "The misery and want are great, greater than word or pen can describe, but we have hopes based on recent utterances in writing of the colonial secretary that the British government, when convinced of the extent of the destitution and ruin, will do all in its power to alleviate the misery of the people of the two late

### The Spectacle's Ghost.

republics. But there will always remain need for help beyond what the government can give." In the light of this appeal from the subjects of Great Britain who will undertake to justify the extravagance and display shown in the gorgeous spectacle at Delhi?

The New York World has interviewed Grover Cleveland with relation to the Monroe doctrine. The readers of the World would doubtless obtain more accurate information concerning that doctrine if Richard Olney were persuaded to say something on the subject. Mr. Cleveland says that this American principle will never be better defended or more bravely asserted than was done by Mr. Olney in his dispatch to the British government in 1895. On this point there will be very general agreement with the former president.

The Atlanta Journal has concluded that after all there is something of a problem in the Philippine question. The Journal says: "American army officers returning from the Philippines state that it will be necessary to place the three principal provinces of the island under military rule once more. We may as well look the Philippine problem squarely in the face one time as another—it is merely another Indian problem, but with a vastly superior and more formidable people to deal with, and that, too, under less favorable conditions."

The action of the administration in abolishing the Indianola, Miss., postoffice is open to serious criticism. Representative Pierce of Tennessee says: "The postoffice was established by law and if it is to be abolished it should be abolished by law." The representatives of the administration claim that the better element among the Indianola citizenship condemns the annoyance to which the colored postmistress was subjected. This being true, it is strange that the administration would insist upon putting the entire community to the inconvenience of doing without a postoffice.

Senator Lodge of Massachusetts has introduced a bill providing for the suspension for a period of ninety days of the tariff on anthracite coal. In his message to congress Mr. Roosevelt said: "In my judgment the tariff on anthracite coal should be removed and anthracite put actually where it now is nominally on the free list. This would have no effect at all save in crises, but in crises it might be of service to the people." Are we to understand that the Lodge bill complies with the president's recommendation? Can it be possible that all danger of crises will be avoided if anthracite is placed on the free list for a period of ninety days?

The Kansas City Star gives a bit of good advice to the negro when it says: "There is too much of a disposition among decent black men to shield the bad representatives of their own race. The public officers continually complain of this tendency and they testify that it increases the difficulty of enforcing the law. This feeling of sympathy is probably a natural heritage of the days when the negroes were generally persecuted and oppressed, but there is no necessity for it now. The negro in Kansas City and everywhere else owes it to himself to cast out the vagabonds and criminals of his own color who bring reproach upon him and who keep alive the prejudice against the race."

The Baltimore Sun provides food for thought when it says: "It has been the experience in recent advances in wages that the public, the consumer, must pay the freight. When the wages of railroad employees have been advanced the advance has been usually accompanied by an increase in freight rates, so that upon the whole the company has perhaps made money by the operation. Mr. Rockefeller gives a million dollars to a college and raises the price of oil so that he will get his million dollars back from the public many times over. The people would appreciate liberality by the corporations to their employees, whether in the form of profit-sharing or in the increase of wages, if the liberality was at the expense of the corporation and not extorted from the public."

### Food For Thought.